

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently amended) Interactive television process applicable to a system where at least one transmitting station transmits programmes to receivers, the process comprising:

- a) reception in one of said receivers, of a startup application and of a first application and triggering of said startup application causing execution of steps b) to d);
- b) testing for a presence in a memory of said receiver of at least one file of additional data;
- c) in the absence of said file of additional data in said memory, starting up of the first application;
- d) if said file of additional data is present in said memory, starting up of a second application using said file of additional data.

2. (Previously presented) Interactive television process according to Claim 1, wherein, with said transmitting station comprises at least one link for bilateral communication with said receivers, said process comprises the following prior steps:

- e) reception of a message proposing loading of said file of additional data into said receiver;
- f) acceptance or refusal by a user of said receiver, of the proposed loading;
- g) in case of refusal, exiting from the present process;
- h) in case of acceptance, automatic downloading of said file of additional data which is usable subsequently by said startup application into said receiver, via said bilateral communication link;
- i) recording in said memory of said receiver, of said file of additional data.

3. (Previously presented) Interactive television process according to Claim 2, comprising, before step f), the reception, by said receiver, of at least one cue regarding the contents of said file of additional data, said cue preferably being chosen from among a size, a subsequent date of use, a date of expiry or of validity of the additional data, a date on which the additional data will be used, a broadcasting channel which will use the additional data, and a downloading address.

4. (Previously presented) Interactive television process according to claim 2, comprising, before step h), a step in the course of which the user indicates a choice of immediate downloading or of deferred downloading of said file of additional data.
5. (Previously presented) Interactive television process according to claim 2, wherein during step e), the reception of the proposal message is effected upon the reception of an application of the same type as the second application.
6. (Previously presented) Interactive television process according to claim 1, wherein said file of additional data contains an additional application.
7. (Previously presented) Interactive television process according to claim 1, wherein during step a), said receiver also receives said second application.
8. (Previously presented) Interactive television process according to claim 1, comprising a step of automatic erasing of the contents of said memory.
9. (Previously presented) Interactive television process according to claim 8, wherein a date of erasure is associated with said file of additional data and in that the erasure step comprises a periodic operation of reading this date and an erasure operation when this date is reached.
10. (Previously presented) Interactive television process according to claim 1, wherein said file of additional data contains data chosen from among at least a piece of software, video data, pictures, sound and a combination of these types of data.
11. (Currently amended) Interactive television receiver comprising means for testing for the presence in a said memory of said receiver, of at least one file of additional data,
comprising:
 - means of reception of a said startup application and of a said first application;
 - and means of starting up the first application in the absence of said file of additional data in said memory and

of starting up a said second application if said file of additional data is present in said memory,
said receiver preferably being designed to implement an interactive television process in accordance with claim 1.

12. (Previously presented) Digital television terminal, comprising an interactive television receiver according to Claim 11.

13. (Currently amended) Process for transmitting applications by a broadcasting station to interactive television receivers, wherein said applications comprise a said startup application and a said first application, said startup application being intended to cause a said test for the presence in a said memory of at least one of said receivers, of at least one file of additional data, as well as to start up the first application in the absence of said file of additional data and to start up a said second application using said file of additional data if said file is present, said transmitting process preferably being intended to implement said interactive television process in accordance with claim 1.

14. (Currently amended) Station for transmitting programmes to interactive television receivers, comprising means of production and of transmission of at least one message comprising a said startup application and a said first application said startup application being intended to cause a said test for the presence in a said memory of at least one of said receivers of at least one file of additional data, as well as to start up the first application in the absence of said file of additional data and to start up a said second application using said additional file if said file is present, said transmitting station preferably being intended to implement the transmitting process according to Claim 13.

Claim 15 (Canceled)